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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/830,215 Confirmation No. 3140  
Applicant : Akira KUBOTA et al.  
Filed : April 24, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 1773  
Examiner : N.J. Uhler  
Dkt. No. : IPE-004  
Cust. No. : 20374

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)**  
**WITH A STATEMENT AS SPECIFIED IN 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 7, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. These documents have been cited in an office communication in a corresponding Chinese patent application. One copy of each of the listed documents and a copy of the office communication is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of a final official action or a

Notice of Allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The undersigned also hereby states that the information contained in this information disclosure statement was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement.

No explanation of the relevance of document UA is believed to be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 because the document is in English. Please note that document UA is a corresponding patent publication to EP 0 522 758 which was cited in the International Search Report and Office Action dated March 21, 2003, in the present application.

Document FA is not in English. However, it has an English language counterpart, U.S. Patent No. 6,124,020. For the convenience of the Office, applicants submit herewith a copy of the English language counterpart of document FA. The concise explanation of the relevance of document FA required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 is believed to be satisfied thereby.

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 09/830,215  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**PATENT**

No fee is required in connection with this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

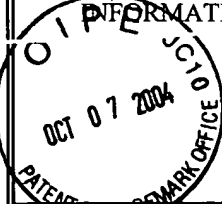
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Attachments: PTO-1449  
Two Documents  
Chinese Patent Office Communication  
U.S. Patent No. 6,124,020

	INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PTO-1449		Atty. Docket No. IPE-004	Serial No. 09/830,215
	Applicant: Akira KUBOTA et al.			
	Filing Date: April 24, 2001		Group: 1773	

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial		Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If appropriate
	UA	5,354,595 A	10/11/94	Yamamoto et al.	428	147	
	UB						
	UC						
	UD						
	UE						
	UF						
	UG						

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation Yes/No/Partial
	FA	1202260A	12/16/98	CN	No
	FB				
	FC				
	FD				
	FE				
	FF				
	FG				

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial		
	DA	
	DB	
	DC	

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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